

351—4.53(68A,68B) Express advocacy; in-kind contributions; independent expenditures—definitions. For the purposes of Iowa Code Supplement chapter 68A, the following definitions apply.

4.53(1) *Express advocacy.* “Express advocacy” means any communication as defined in Iowa Code Supplement section 68A.102(14). “Express advocacy” includes a communication that uses any word, term, phrase, or symbol that exhorts an individual to vote for or against a clearly identified candidate or for the passage or defeat of a clearly identified ballot issue.

4.53(2) *In-kind contribution.* “In-kind contribution” means the provision of any good or service to a committee without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and normal charge for such good or service. If a good or service is provided at less than the usual and normal charge, the amount of the in-kind contribution is the difference between the usual and normal charge for the good or service at the time of the contribution and the amount charged the committee. An in-kind contribution also includes any expenditure that meets the definition of a coordinated expenditure in subrule 4.53(4).

4.53(3) *Independent expenditure.* “Independent expenditure” means an expenditure by a person for goods or services, including express advocacy communication, on behalf of a candidate or a ballot issue which is not made with the knowledge and approval of a candidate or a ballot issue committee. “Independent expenditure” does not include incidental expenses (expenses of \$25 or less per incident absorbed by the volunteer which result from or arise out of the volunteer work) incurred by an individual in performing volunteer work.

4.53(4) *Coordinated expenditure.* “Made with the knowledge and approval of a candidate or ballot issue committee” means that there has been arrangement, coordination, or direction by the candidate or an agent or officer of the candidate’s committee or a ballot issue committee prior to the procurement or purchase of the good or service, or the publication, distribution, display, or broadcast of an express advocacy communication. This may also be referred to as a “coordinated expenditure.” An expenditure will be presumed to be coordinated when it is:

a. Based on information provided to the expending person by the candidate, the candidate’s committee, or the ballot issue committee with a view toward having an expenditure made; or

b. Made by or through any person who is or has been authorized to raise or expend funds; who is or has been an officer of the candidate’s committee or the ballot issue committee; or who is or has been receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate, the candidate’s committee, or the ballot issue committee.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 68A.404.